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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Koichi YOSHIMURA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2167

Application No.: 10/627,915

Examiner: M. PHAM

Filed: July 28, 2003

Docket No.: 116673

For: SERVICE RETRIEVAL APPARATUS HAVING AUTOMATIC CHANGE
FUNCTION FOR RETRIEVAL CONDITIONS AND METHOD THEREFOR

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTIONELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the March 6, 2008 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 16 and 21-24, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1, 7, 8, 14-16 and 21-24 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DRK/sxl

Date: March 27, 2008

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